

2010 Legislative Session Priorities

Updated February 20, 2010

Budget Priorities

- \$10 million in capital funding to perform Puget Sound restoration and recovery projects identified as priorities in the Action Agenda, and
- \$4.9 million for the Department of Transportation to comply with new stormwater requirements for state roads.

Legislative Priorities

Limiting the use of copper substances in vehicle brake pads (Senate Bill 6557 and House Bill 3018)—Agency request legislation jointly initiated by the Puget Sound Partnership and the Department of Ecology. The goal of the bill is to limit the use of copper in vehicle brake pads. Vehicle brake pads represent a significant source of copper in our environment, threatening the health of our streams, rivers and marine environment, and particularly our threatened and endangered salmon.

Utilizing Marine Spatial Planning for management of marine waters (Senate Bill 6350)—Establishes an interagency team, Chaired by the Governor and composed of Natural Resources cabinet agencies with jurisdiction over marine issues, to assess and make recommendations to develop a marine management plan with a marine spatial component for the outer coast, as well as incorporate a marine spatial component into the Puget Sound Action Agenda and management efforts for the Columbia river estuary.

Other legislative issues important to Puget Sound

The Secure Medicine Return Bill (House Bill 1165)—Establish a producer-provided medicine return program for unwanted prescription drugs, including controlled substances, and over-the-counter medicines. The goal is to ensure collected waste medicines will be safely disposed at a hazardous waste facility and do not impact public safety or contribute to environmental pollution.

Eliminating certain boards and commissions (House Bill 2617 and Senate Bill 6426)—Requested by the Governor to eliminate more than 70 boards and commissions, including the Oil Spill Advisory Council.

Researching the environmental impacts of seawater desalination (Senate Bill 6347)—Initiates an examination regarding of the impacts, seawater desalination, including the environmental impacts of seawater desalination facilities; impacts to nearshore habitat; disposal of waste and by-products; and laws and regulations of other states.

Regarding high-density urban development (House Bill 2538)—Authorizes certain planning jurisdictions under the Growth Management Act to include compact development in their comprehensive plans, requires the development of an environmental impact statement for any compact development plan, encourages the establishment of a transfer of development rights program for planning jurisdictions that include compact development in their comprehensive plans and provides funding incentives.

Time Extension for the Ruckelshaus Center to complete recommendations regarding critical areas ordinances regarding agricultural activities (Senate Bill 6611 and House Bill 2891)—Grants the William D. Ruckelshaus Center another year to examine and seek to resolve conflicts between agricultural activities and CAOs adopted under the Growth Management Act. The legislation would extend a provision that temporarily prohibits counties and cities from amending or adopting critical areas ordinances (CAOs) as they specifically apply to agricultural activities by one year to July 1, 2011.

Protecting Puget Sound from derelict fishing and shellfish equipment (House Bill 2593)—Extends the scope of the coastal commercial Dungeness crab pot removal permit to include Puget Sound and increases enforcement provision to allow prosecution for individuals showing intent to use unlawful shellfish pots.

Specifying a funding preference for water pollution control facilities in the Action Agenda (House Bill 3136)—Requires the Department of Ecology to give preference to projects funded through the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund that are in the Action Agenda, recommended by the Puget Sound Partnership, or designated as a “Puget Sound Partner.” The Governor’s Budget appropriates \$42 million for planning, design, construction or improvement of water pollution control facilities to reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution.